

Approved

**Town of Brentwood
Budget Committee Hearing
Minutes of December 3, 2012**

Present: Elyse Seeley (Chair), Bill Faria, Malcolm Allison (via telephone conference call), John Lyon, Bob Mantegari, Dianne Vosgien (School Board Representative), Ken Christiansen (Selectmen Rep), Krista Steger.

Visitors: Ron Kew, Michael Morgan, Lisa Swasey, Kim Woods, Wayne Robinson, Charlie Gargaly
Chairperson Elyse Seeley called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

1. Correspondence – Elyse circulated copies of responses to Budcom questions regarding the Swasey School draft budget from Ron Kew which were also emailed to Budcom.
2. Motion to approve draft minutes from November 19, 2012. Bob/Krista Approved 7-0, 1 Abstention (Krista).
3. Public Hearing for Town and School Budgets will be Monday, January 14 at 7:00 pm at the town office(snow date is January 17). The meeting has already been posted and will be in the next newsletter as well as the Carriage Town News and Exeter Newsletter. March 9 is the school district meeting, and March 16 is Town Meeting.
4. Elyse circulated the Rate Setting form. It shows our tax rate is \$23.24, an increase of \$.23 cents, up from \$23.01. The Selectmen helped offset the tax rate with \$387K from fund balance- helps stabilize taxes through the ups and downs of budgets. Tax rate increase would have been \$1.00 per thousand. The Selectmen has opted to retain approximately 5%, which is allowed by law for next year for this same purpose.
5. Elyse also circulated the revenue estimates for Budcom to review. (Noted that revenue shows up in different places, for example Library has book repair fund, cemetery has a plot fee which goes to both cost of plot and maintenance, recreation has a revolving account. Forms show where the revenue is tracked.)

Old Business:

1. Swasey School Budget - We reviewed this revised budget proposal. Ron Kew and Mike Morgan were available to answer any further questions. The two differences in the current draft are Rosetta Stone and computer equipment increases. It appears most of the increases are due to the required retirement and health benefits. Currently have 365 students and that number is not expected to change for the coming year. Discussion of why there is not more of a budget decrease, with reduced enrollment and need for services: certain positions, nurse, library, guidance, have less students as well, but none are shown as reduced FTE's. Some discussion was pursued of having a shared role from the SAU or some of the other schools. In reviewing the budget Mike Morgan indicated that this seems to be a reasonable budget - he feels this budget was well thought out and put together Vs. some others he has seen from SAU 16. 200 K was returned to the town surplus. Elyse pointed out that there was 300K overage, that 98K unbudgeted \$ was spent on a playground, so there was ample room in the budget. Ron pointed out that this proposed budget eliminates a FTE teacher position. Dianne, Chair of the School Board, asked the committee for a sense of where we feel we are with the

school budget. The consensus of the Budcom was that we felt that the budget could be reduced approximately \$25,000.00. There was discussion/suggested eliminating enrichment dollars (Rosetta Stone), reducing Psych and/or Media to partial positions. Rosetta Stone is not part of NH State Curriculum, and PFG has \$8000 in enrichment money. Elyse as Chair said there was room to reduce, and this was an opportune year for Swasey to do the right thing by taxpayers. Next year we'll be looking at contract costs again. The School Board will come back to Budcom with revisions, and we'll vote on the Swasey School budget at our next meeting, December 17.

2. Tabled - Financial, Tax & Assessing Budget: Finance. 4150-09. Motion to discuss Bob/John This budget was tabled because we could not ascertain the reason for the increases. Karen advised that we are required to pay a fee on the trust fund/invested funds. The more we make on the trust fund monies the more of a fee we are required to pay up to .05% on the increase for managing the funds. Approved in the amount of \$62,903.00, 8-0.

New Business:

1. Public Works – Highway- 4312-21. Motion to discuss Bob/John. Approved in the amount of \$371,051.00., 8-0.
2. Police Department – 4210-17. Motion to discuss Bob/John. Wayne advised that he has hired, with the selectboard approval, a new officer to replace the two positions the department was down. Approved in the amount of \$533,423.00., 8-0.
3. Fire Department – 4220-19. Motion to discuss Bob/John. Elyse advised that the Chief was unable to make the meeting tonight but would be happy to attend the next meeting if we have any questions or issues we can not resolve. Voted to table this budget until the next meeting that Kevin is able to attend, either December 17 or January 7, approved to table, 8-0.
4. Animal Control Officer – 4414-30. Motion to discuss Bob/John. Most of the increase is in salary, which is only used on an as needed basis. Approved in the amount of \$3,896.00, 8-0.
5. Health Officer – 4419-31. Motion to discuss Bob/John. This is a place setter for the health office, who donates his salary back to the town every year. Approved in the amount of \$100.00, 8-0.
6. Street Lighting – 4316-23. Motion to discuss Bob/John. Approved in the amount of \$444.00, 8-0.
7. Code Enforcement – 4240-20. Motion to discuss Bob/John. Approved in the amount of \$26,598.00, 8-0.
8. Debt Service – 4711-60; 4721-60; 4723-60; 4790-60, Motion to discuss Bob/John. Approved in the amount of \$386,988.00, 8-0.
9. Information Systems – 4150-08. Motion to discuss Bob/John. Approved in the amount of \$28,931.00, 8-0.
10. General Government – 4199-15. Motion to discuss Bob/John. This is for general office supplies and lease and maintenance funding for office equipment. Approved in the amount of \$31,620.00, 6-2.
11. Town Clerk – 4140-05. Motion to discuss Bob/John. Ken advised that after being eligible for several years, Phyllis has decided to accept the highest step in her position. Approved in the amount of \$63,063.00, 8-0

12. Tax Collector – 4150-04. Motion to discuss Bob/John. Approved in the amount of \$61,648.00, 8-0.

Other Business

1. Ken advised that the Library, the next day after our last meeting had a propane delivery and the price paid was \$2.29 a gallon, much better than last year and much better than indicated in the library budget notes. He expects the library to adjust their figures in their budget.

2. Elyse noted that our next meetings are December 17, January 7, and following the public hearing on January 14. (January 17 snow date).

Public Comments

None

9:23 pm Motion to adjourn, Bob/John, approved 8-0

Minutes respectfully submitted by
William C Faria